

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Non-Compliant Amendment dated February 24, 2005, the status identifiers for the claims have been clarified. For the sake of completeness, the Remarks from the Amendment and Response To Office Action Dated November 3, 2004 are being restated below.

Claims 1-8, 10-13, 24-32, 34-40, 42-44, 47, 49-55, 57, 61, 65, 70, and 71 remain in the application for further prosecution. Claims 58-60, 62-64, and 69 have been cancelled. Claims 36, 44, 49, 50, 57, 61, 66-68, 70 and 71 have been amended. The Applicant thanks the Examiner for allowance of claims 1-8, 10-13, 24-32, 34-40, 42, 43, 47, 49, 52, 54, 55, 65 and 67.

§ 112 Rejection

Claims 44, 57-64, 66 and 68-72 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 44, 57, 61, 66, 68, 70, and 71 have been amended to overcome this rejection. Claims 58-60, 62-64, 69, and 72 have been cancelled.

§ 102 Rejection

Claims 57-59 and 61-63 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,553,731 (Szirtes). Claims 57-59 and 61-63 have been cancelled.

Claims 68 and 72 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,804,971 (Bruns et al). Claims 68 and 72 have been cancelled.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner indicated that claims 60, 64, and 69-71 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Independent claim 57 has been redrafted to include the limitations of claim 60; independent claim 61 has been redrafted to include the limitations of claim 64; and independent claim 68 has been redrafted to include the limitations of claim 69. Therefore, claims 57, 61, and 69 are now believed to be allowable.

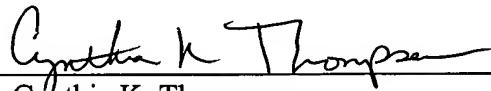
Conclusion

It is the Applicants' belief that all of the claims are now in condition for allowance and action towards that effect is respectfully requested.

If there are any matters which may be resolved or clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the number indicated.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 7, 2005



Cynthia K. Thompson
Reg. No. 48,655
Jenkens & Gilchrist
225 West Washington Street, Suite 2600
Chicago, IL 60606-3418
(312) 425-3900
Attorney for Applicants